

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3 and 9-11 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

As noted above, claim 5 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejections of claim 5 have been rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 5 is requested.

With respect to the requirement made by the Examiner in "5" on page 3 of the Office Action, support for the phrase cited by the Examiner can be found on page 74, lines 15-18 and page 80, lines 9-15 of the original specification. Note that at least one rubber member can be directly bonded to the resin member without any adhesive and that the rubber member may be a tire body. Also, a plate- or sheet-like unvulcanized rubber composition can be laminated on a resin member.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected the claims on the grounds of obviousness under 35 USC 103(a) over various combinations of references. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

(1) Examiner's position

The Examiner states that claims 2, 5 (now cancelled), 6 and 8 are unpatentable over Nishikawa et al (US 6,415,840) in view of Weaver et al (US 4,146,513) and Rongone (US 4,063,979) as well as various combinations of references including Boussu et al (US 2,884,040) taken in view of at least one of Weaver et al (US 4,146,513), Rongone (US 4,063,979), Freytag et al (US 3,596,696) and Buckwalter et al (US 2,927,051). Further, the Examiner states that claims 12-15 are unpatentable over Nishikawa et al. (US 6,415,840) taken in view of various

combinations of references including Weaver et al. (US 4,146,513), Rongone (US 4,063,979), Boussu et al. (US 2,884,040), Freytag et al. (US 3,596,696), Buckwalter et al. (US 2,927,051) and the Kirk-Othmer article entitled "Rubber Chemicals". All of these rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

(2) Amendment of Claim 2

In order to clarify the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references, claim 2 has been amended to recite "a plate- or sheet-like reinforcing layer formed on the internal surface of the tire body and consisting essentially of a polyamide ...," based on the Examples and the original description.

(3) The cited references

Since the references are the same references as those cited in the previous Office Action of July 17, 2009, it is unnecessary to repeat the discussion with respect thereto set forth on pages 8-16 of the Amendment filed on October 19, 2009. That discussion is therefore incorporated by reference herein.

(4) Comparison of the present invention and the cited references

The amendments submitted herewith clarify that the present plate- or sheet-like reinforcing layer does not contain a polyamide fiber or textile. Therefore, as mentioned in the Response to the last Office Action, directly bonding the plate-like polyamide layer to the vulcanized rubber layer without any adhesive cannot be predicted from the references, and, absent hindsight, the advantages of the claimed invention are not predictable from the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination. Simply stated, there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation of the claimed invention in the cited references. Accordingly, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond C. Stewart, Registration No. 21,066,

at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Raymond C. Stewart
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